

Amazing LOVE!

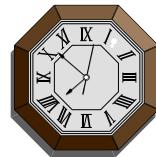
The Book of Revelation is sometimes called “The Apocalypse”

Having a hard time seeing God’s love in Revelation??

Session 3: John’s Interesting Perception of Christ Jesus and the Church

“Actually, The Book of Revelation is a look at the past, present and future...of the Church of Jesus Christ!” Tim LaHaye

The Bridegroom is anxious to have his bride (the Church) come home!



God’s Timetable is Always on Schedule...Accurate and Factual!

Jesus came into this world and will come back for His bride at a set time, set place, and for a set purpose!

Matthew 24:36, 42, “No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father...Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come...So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him.”



There is nothing magical or mystical about God’s Plan...He has and will fulfill His Purpose, Plan and Provision for Mankind.



Our future is not in the balance...We know where we are going and whose we are when we accept the plan of God as being factual, real, and Perpetual (No End).

Time of Writing—Revelation 1:9, “I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.”

Written in the time of great persecution. Church was 66 or so years old.

Great growth in those 66 years...even though the Way (Christians) were suffering greatly (holocaust of persecution)

- 1st, time of Nero...A.D. 64-67 (About 30 years before this book was written)...Christians crucified, thrown to wild beasts, beheaded, and some were wrapped in combustible garments and burned to death...Paul and Peter suffered martyrdom during Nero's reign.
- 2nd Imperial persecution was instituted by Emperor Domitian, A.D. 95. Short, but extremely severe. 40,000 Christians tortured and slain...John exiled to the isle of Patmos.
- 3rd Imperial persecution was soon to begin...Trojan, from A.D. 95-98

Patmos—Island to which John was banished in the persecution of Domitian.

Located in the Aegean Sea, 60 miles Southwest of Ephesus, 100 miles East of Athens; 10 miles long, 5 - 6 miles wide. Treacherous and rocky terrain. John banished for about 10 years.

Banishment—Common form of Roman punishment...usually given to political prisoners.

- ✓ Banishment involved the loss of civil rights and all property except for bare existence. Political prisoners were not confined in prison; free to move within narrow limits.
- ✓ But...for John, the leader of the Christian movement...much different. The wonder of it all is why he was not executed right away. Although he was not, it meant for the Christian political prisoner, hard labor in the rock quarries.
- ✓ Banishment was always preceded by scourging, placed in chains (fettered), very little clothing, insufficient food, sleep on the bare ground, dark room, and labored under the lash of the military overseer.
- ✓ Patmos today—cliff overlooking the sea; most scholars believe that this is where John wrote the book of Revelation (the Word states it).

Why was John banished to the Isle of Patmos?

“Because of the Word of God and testimony of Jesus Christ.”

1. To go to Patmos to preach the word (sole reason...to evangelize).
2. To go to Patmos to receive the Word where the Revelation of Jesus Christ to John could be written.
3. Banished to the island because of his preaching, teaching, and standing up to the authorities because of his testimony of Jesus Christ.

One of the beautiful things about the study of Revelations is that it gives the believer (those who take their salvation serious) a look at what we have to look forward to. It does it by studying the seven churches...“He who overcomes...” and seeing that the future home awaiting the believer (Heaven) is more than what we can ever imagine.

Paul said it...John saw it...and we can believe it or not.

- *Paul said...“But as it is written: “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.” 1 Corinthians 2:9*
- *John saw...“Then I saw ‘a new heaven and a new earth,’ for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”⁶ He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7 Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.*
- *The one who saw it from the beginning...Jesus said, “In my Father’s house are many mansions, if it were not so I would have told you so. I go to prepare a place for you...” John 14:2-3*



Revelation 1:4-6, “John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; ⁵ And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, ⁶ And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”

The Salutation of Revelation: “Grace be unto you, and peace...”

Grace is the Greek method of greeting; peace is the Hebrew form of greeting. Both of these salutatory words are generated from God...not men. Men are not the ones that can give spiritual grace...they are privileged to receive it...because God and only God through His Son can give spiritual grace. Real peace (spiritually) can only come from knowing Jesus. The Holy Spirit is the One that passes on to us...when God provided it by giving us salvation through Jesus' death, burial and resurrection.

Remember, Jesus gave the Holy Spirit to convict us of our sin against God...against His Son. Once convicted...we must make a decision to do something about our sin.

John seems to like the letter 7. Note he mentioned “seven” on 2 occasions in the 4th verse. The #7 is used 54 times in a variety of contexts in Revelation:

- 7 letters to 7 churches in Asia
- 7 spirits before God's throne
- 7 Golden lampstands
- 7 Stars in Christ's right hand
- 7 seals of God's judgment
- 7 angels with 7 trumpets

The number 7 is used in the Bible more than 700 times.

- ✓ There are times when it seems that God is communicating the idea of divine completeness, perfection, and wholeness by means of the number 7.
- ✓ Not every instance of the number 7 in the Bible carries a deeper significance. Sometimes, a 7 is just a 7, and we must be cautious about attaching symbolic meanings to any text, especially when Scripture is not explicit about such meanings

So...The number 7 represents completeness or a totality of something.

The Trinity is mentioned in this Scripture:

- God...“Who was, Who is, and Who is to come”...reference to God. The Word of God to Moses is “I am who I am” (Exodus 3:14)...
Jewish Rabbi's said God was saying, “I was; I still am; and in the future I will be.”
- The Sevenfold spirits of God...refers to the 7 virtues of the Holy Spirit.

Note: Isaiah 11:2-4a, “The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—³ and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; ⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the needy...” ...It represents the Perfect and Complete Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit has Personality...He is not just an abstract force or power.

The Holy Spirit:

Exercises the Attributes of Personality:

- **He has a MIND (Romans 8:27)**, “And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is in the mind of the Spirit...”
- **He has a WILL (1 Corinthians 12:11)**, “But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will”
- **He has feelings (Ephesians 4:30)**, “And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God...”

Personal Activities are Ascribed to Him:

- **He REVEALS (2 Peter 1:21)**, “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”
- **He TEACHES (John 14:26)**, “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things...”
- **He WITNESSES (Galatians 4:6)**, “And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father”
- **He INTERCEDES (Romans 8:26)**, “Likewise the Spirit itself also helpeth our infirmities; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered”
- **He SPEAKS (Revelation 2:7)**, “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches...”
- **He COMMANDS (Acts 16:6,7)**, “Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the Word in Asia, After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia; but the Spirit suffered them not”
- **He TESTIFIES (John 15:26)**, “But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me...”

Some Additional Attributes of the Person of the Holy Spirit:

He guides – Rom. 8:14; He enlightens – John 16:13; He strives – Gen. 6:3;
He sends workers – Acts 13:4; He calls – Rev. 22:17; He comforts – John 16:7; He works – 1 Cor. 12:11

The above actions cannot be accomplished by a mere influence or force. Only a rational, emotional, and active person could do all that the Scriptures teach the Holy Spirit accomplishes.

- **Jesus, the Christ—Who is He?**
 - ✓ **The Faithful Witness (What does it mean to you?)**
 - The witness on whom we can rely!
 - Witness of the truth John 4...He even speaks about Himself...I am truth!
 - ✓ **The First Begotten of the Dead...Dead, but is alive today.**
 - First Resurrection (To enter into heaven) from the dead; “begotten”—God’s offspring (literally).
 - ✓ **The Prince of the Kings of the Earth.**
 - Royal blood...Offspring of the King (male); Prince because of His Inherited royalty.

You, too, are a Prince...royal blood, a child of the King.

A CHILD OF THE KING...Harriet E. Buell

1. *My Father is rich in houses and lands,
He holdeth the wealth of the world in His hands!
Of rubies and diamonds, of silver and gold,
His coffers are full, He has riches untold.*
 - *Refrain:*
*I'm a child of the King,
A child of the King:
With Jesus my Savior,
I'm a child of the King.*
2. *My Father's own Son, the Savior of men,
Once wandered on earth as the poorest of them;
But now He is pleading our pardon on high,
That we may be His, when He comes by and by.*
3. *I once was an outcast stranger on earth,
A sinner by choice, an alien by birth,
But I've been adopted, my name's written down,
An heir to a mansion, a robe and a crown.*
4. *A tent or a cottage, why should I care?
They're building a palace for me over there;
Though exiled from home, yet still may I sing:
All glory to God, I'm a child of the King.*

That, my friend, is who you are! That...is whose you are...if you have placed your faith and trust in Him!

